

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 29 September 1970

25X1

1. [REDACTED] In line with our agreement to keep each other informed of developments regarding the Cienfuegos problem, I called Rear Admiral Means Johnston, Chief of Legislative Affairs, Navy Department, to tell him how we were trying to handle the request from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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2. [REDACTED] Called Ambassador Harry Symmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, for clarification of State Department's position on the handling of the Cienfuegos matter on the Hill (a Foreign Affairs Committee staff officer had quoted State as saying they were not available to testify on the matter but CIA was). Symmes was not up-to-date but said he would get Assistant Secretary Abshire, who was then meeting on the matter with the Acting Secretary, to call me shortly.

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3. [REDACTED] Had a couple of conversations with Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee, regarding funding the Agency Reserves. See Memorandum for the Record.

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4. [REDACTED] Talked with Frank Slatinshek, Acting Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, concerning some problems regarding the handling of the Fulbright amendment on the House side. See Memorandum for the Record.

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5. [REDACTED] Met with Mr. Frank Cummings, Administrative Assistant to Senator Jacob K. Javits (R., N.Y.), and gave him a verbal outline of [REDACTED]. Mr. Cummings was most appreciative. See Journal item of 17 September.

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29 September 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Frank Slatinshek re Fulbright Amendment

1. This afternoon on the Director's instructions I called Frank Slatinshek, Acting Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, to ask if he could fill me in on details regarding the handling of the Fulbright amendment when the Military Procurement Authorization bill came before the House. Slatinshek reminded me that in their reclama the Defense Department had raised no objection to the Fulbright amendment and it was for this reason that Slatinshek had called on me to provide ammunition which Chairman Rivers might use in attacking the amendment. Slatinshek said it was fairly clear the Administration and the DOD felt they could "live with" the Fulbright amendment.

2. I asked Slatinshek if he was aware of any specific word to this effect which might have been conveyed to Chairman Rivers personally, or whether the Administration had asked Rivers not to go through with his original intent of attacking the amendment.

3. Slatinshek said he was not aware of any specific conversation the Chairman might have had with Administration leaders, but it was certainly made clear to the Chairman and members of the Committee and staff that the Administration did not want a fight made over the Fulbright amendment.

4. I said that I had been told by someone who should know that the Chairman himself had been asked by the White House last week to refrain from attacking the amendment. Slatinshek said he could not confirm this, but did know that on 21 September the Chairman had talked to the President. In conclusion Slatinshek said that implicitly, if not explicitly, the Administration had made it abundantly clear that they did not want the House Armed Services Committee to make a major issue of the Fulbright amendment.

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